

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



The following pages detail the development and final elements of the Kennedy Street Revitalization Plan, beginning with its identification in the District's Comprehensive Plan as a priority site for a Small Area Plan, and culminating in a series of economic and physical implementation strategies for both the short- and mid-term.

The planning process itself was notable for the range and intensity of public participation, as it proceeded through a series of public meetings, including a major community-wide design workshop. The plan's Advisory Committee represented the many voices and many communities that comprise the Kennedy Street neighborhood. Members continually underscored the value that residents, business owners, and others place in sustaining the corridor's existing social fabric, and in making sure that revitalization happen without displacement of current residents or businesses. They worked assiduously with the consulting team and representatives of the City's Office of Planning to identify specific strategies that strengthen that fabric while identifying opportunities for physical improvements, for carefully-sited new development – residential, retail, mixed use – that at the same time would be in

kennedy street

revitalization plan

keeping with the neighborhood's existing scale and overall accessibility.

The community-based Vision for Kennedy Street that emerged from the planning process identified five major themes that ultimately shaped the plan. These included:

- Ensuring a clean and safe neighborhood
- Creating special places that are welcoming and pedestrian-friendly
- Supporting existing residents and businesses while encouraging new economic development and housing
- Encouraging mobility and connectivity
- Identifying opportunities for collaboration and partnering in support of the plan's implementation

This report illustrates how these themes became the collective core of the Kennedy Street Revitalization Plan. Underlying the plan itself is acknowledgement of the true significance of places such as Kennedy Street: neighborhood hearts whose health, success, and livability are central to the ultimate success of any city. Strengthening both the concept and the reality of *neighborhood* was the ultimate goal of all those who participated in the planning process; it was made manifest throughout the process by the way in which participants talked about their street and, ultimately, will be reflected in practice as the plan's implementation moves forward.



Councilmember Muriel Bowser was a major presence during the Kennedy Street planning process.